

3rd December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As we near the end of term, I wanted to confirm the arrangements for the last day, which is Friday 17th December. As is tradition, we will still be finishing early on the last day of term and therefore school will officially end at 1.50pm. Food, including lunches will be available in the canteen, however, this will only be open between 10.50 and 11.20am. Dorset School Transport has been informed of the early finish and will, with the other transport providers for Budmouth, arrive at 1.50pm to collect the students.

Charity/non-uniform days

It was really pleasing that Shelley School raised over £1,100 for their chosen charity (Children in Need) on our most recent non-uniform day. As promised, here are the dates for the remaining charity/non-uniform days:

- Friday 10th December: Attenborough School - 'Save the Children' Xmas Jumper Day.
- Friday 18th March 2022: Hawking School – 'Comic Relief'
- Friday 8th April 2022: Sixth Form - 'Kenya Link & Expedition Fundraiser'.

School Meals Parent Survey

CUCINA our school meals provider is currently collecting parents' views on the food served in school, with a view to improving their service. Please would you complete the survey to assist in making these improvements? This can be accessed by clicking on the link below or by using this QR code on your smart-phone camera.

<https://forms.office.com/r/YYR61GZVPj>



Covid-19

As yet there are no plans to cancel any events in the lead up to Christmas, however this is under constant review. Additional risk assessments and precautions will be in place for the events that have been planned.

Face coverings

Face coverings should be worn in communal areas in all settings by staff, visitors and pupils or students in Year 7 and above, unless they are exempt. Pupils should continue to wear face coverings on public and dedicated school transport, unless they are exempt.

Testing in School - 4th-6th January 2022

All educational and childcare settings should continue to encourage staff and students to test twice weekly using lateral flow device (LFD) tests. The school will continue to issue these test kits directly to the pupils.

The Department for Education has also instructed schools to test students for Covid-19 on their return from the Christmas holiday. For a school of our size this will mean a **staggered start to the Spring term**, and I can only apologise for the inconvenience that this delayed start may cause. You will note that we have prioritised the return of year groups that have public exams this year. Students will be asked to walk behind the Clare Hall kitchens and to the external door to the right-hand gym and there will be signs to follow.

Tests will be conducted in school and all students will then return home in order to receive their result. School will start the next day if a negative test is returned and positive tests will be followed by ten days of isolation. Please refer to the testing schedule grid at the end of this letter to find out when your son or daughter will be tested and when they will return to school.

Please email our Medical / Health & Safety Officer, jabbott@budmouth-aspirations.org if you have any concerns or queries.

Contact tracing and isolation

Any suspected or confirmed close contacts of the Omicron variant will be asked to isolate for 10 days regardless of vaccination status or age. You will be contacted directly and told to isolate as necessary.

Vaccination

All eligible staff and students aged 12 and over are encouraged to take up the offer of the vaccine, including boosters. Vaccines are recommended by the government as our best defence against COVID-19. The Government says that vaccines help protect young people and adults, and benefit those around them. Evidence says that vaccination makes people less likely to catch the virus and less likely to pass it on. The NHS are offering appointments from Saturday 27th November, 7 days a week, from 9.30am – 4.30pm.

To make an appointment, we ask that you email the NHS with your child's name, school and tutor group (see email address below) and they will email you an appointment slot and further details. Please note that guidance has changed recently and now healthy children in this age-group are required to wait 90 days after a positive COVID test result before having the COVID vaccination.

dhc.covid1215appointments@nhs.net

Summer exams 2022

The Department for Education has confirmed that there will be some amendments made to the way that students are assessed this summer. In the majority of cases, subjects have had subject content removed or reduced to make up for the high rates of absences in schools nationally. It is good news that some consideration has been given to the disruption that these students have faced. The main indication is that the government will keep pass rates in line with those of Summer 2021. Class teachers will inform the pupils of these changes directly, but if you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at the school and we will ask relevant staff to get back to you.

Senior Prize-giving

Invitations have been sent out and this event will take place as planned. This will start at **7pm on the 16th of December, with doors open from 6.30pm**. Mr Henman and his team are making the necessary arrangements for our deserving prize winners to be recognised and all the prizes will be awarded. We are so pleased to welcome back our A' level prize winners and hear from them directly about their first term experiences at university and in the world of work. Arrangements are being made to ensure that our alumni prize winners receive their much deserved recognition for all their hard work.

Christmas Events

There are a number of exciting and fun events planned for December. We think these are vital in helping our students develop both a sense of belonging and increase levels of engagement beyond the classroom.

The Performing Arts department would like to invite you to their **Christmas Fair and Show on Tuesday 7th December in the Clare Hall building from 6pm**. There will be a variety of Christmas stalls and refreshments from 6pm-7.30pm and the show will commence at 7.30pm in Clare Main Hall. Tickets can be bought in advance using our SIMs pay system, or on the door: £3.50 adults and £2.50 children/OAP.

This year the Performing Arts team are also hoping to raise some money for charity, by releasing a KS3 Christmas Charity CD. The CD will consist of students singing a variety of Christmas favourites and all proceeds will go to Dorchester Hospital chemotherapy ward. These can be pre-ordered in advance using our Pay360 system or these CDs will be available to be bought on the evening at £3.50 each.

A huge thank you to those who have already signed up for our **LIP SYNC BATTLE 2021**. Our Year 11 students are working really hard to get it organized and this event will be taking place on the evening of the **15th December from 6:30-9:00 in Clare Main Hall**. All proceeds go towards the Year 11 Prom of 2022. Tickets are on sale at the door on the night or can be purchased in advance through the Pay360 system.

Christmas dinner will be served in the canteen on Friday the 10th of December and on the last day of term, (Friday the 17th December) and there will also be a return of the **Budmouth Christmas Panto and Show**, a tradition that stretches back to when some of you were in school! This, as always, is a terrific opportunity for the staff to embarrass themselves on stage in front of the students! School will then finish early as outlined above.

Once again thank you for your continued support. The impact of Covid-19 continues to make things very difficult in schools nationally, and your patience and understanding has been of great help to the staff and students. On behalf of everyone at Budmouth Academy we wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Hoffmann', with a small 'm' at the end.

Michael Hoffmann
Principal

Covid Testing and Return to School Schedule 4th-7th January 2022

Year 11 & 6 th Form							
Hawking		Shelley		Turing		Attenborough	
Test Tuesday 4th Jan		Test Tuesday 4th Jan		Test Tuesday 4th Jan		Test Tuesday 4th Jan	
Return to school Wed 5 th Jan		Return to school Wed 5 th Jan		Return to school Wed 5 th Jan		Return to school Wed 5 th Jan	
H11-Z_G	09:00	S11-SRB	10:30	T11-RGP	11:30	A11-SRS	13:30
H11-CMS	09:00	S11-HJC	10:30	T11-HMP	11:30	A11-SBR	13:30
6-LEG	09:30	S11-TJJ	10:30	T11-LDH	11:30	6-GDR	13:45
6-PAN	09:30	6-TMS	11:00	6-AJC	12:00	6-HPD	13:45
6-ACW	09:45	6-HAL	11:00	6-AJP	12:00	6-SGD	13:45
6-MHL	09:45	6-JSB	11:00	6-S_R	12:15		
				6-JER	12:15		

Years 7 & 8		Years 7 & 8		Years 7 & 8		Years 7 & 8	
Hawking		Shelley		Turing		Attenborough	
Test Wednesday 5 th Jan		Test Wednesday 5 th		Test Wednesday 5 th		Test Wednesday 5 th	
Return to school Thurs 6 th Jan		Return to school Thurs 6 th Jan		Return to school Thurs 6 th Jan		Return to school Thurs 6 th Jan	
H7-EJJ	09:00	S-7-SDR	10:30	T7-AT	12:00	A7-RJC	13:30
H7-AJM	09:00	S7-MTW	10:30	T7-ACA	12:00	A7-ANM	13:30
H7-EQF	09:00	S8-CMC	10:45	T8-LJB	12:30	A8-ELA	13:45
H8-CMW	09:30	S8-TSE	10:45	T8-RKB	12:30	A8JMS	13:45
H8-SCW	09:30						
H8-MDB	09:30						

Years 9&10		Years 9&10		Years 9&10		Years 9&10	
Hawking		Shelley		Turing		Attenborough	
Test Thursday 6 th January		Test Thursday 6 th January		Test Thursday 6 th January		Test Thursday 6 th January	
Return to school Friday 7 th Jan		Return to school Friday 7 th Jan		Return to school Friday 7 th Jan		Return to school Friday 7 th Jan	
H9-RRE	09:00	S9-LCA	10:30	T9-AKB	12:00	A9-HSH	13:30
H9-MCW	09:00	S9-NAR	10:30	T9-JW	12:00	A9-ELC	13:30
H10-CFB	09:30	S9-JJH	10:45	T10-MPW	12:30	A10-STE	13:45
H10-NPT	09:30	S10-JB	10:45	T10-N_G	12:30	A10-JRB	13:45
		S10-ESS	10:45			A10-TAR	13:45